

THE SORROW SIDE OF THE SEASON.

GIVEN BACK ON CHRISTMAS MORN

A POEM FOR THE PERIOD.

BY TOM HOOD, JR., EDITOR OF "LONDON FUN," ETC.

(A mother watches by her sick babe.) Round about the easement... Babe of mine--babe of mine, I must lose you?

(The mother sings.) Babe of mine, you entwine with existence... Must the dear eyes close? Must the lips be still?

Among the clouds that sail overhead A yellow radiance shined; And o'er the hill-tops wrap in snow, I born a sinner of rosy glow.

About the lonely casement Bows there the breath of day; The mother, in amazement, Sees death-like gleams fade away!

A FAIRY CHRISTMAS TALE. THE STORY OF THE NOSES. BY M. EDOUARD LABOULAYE, the Eminent French Philosopher, Publicist, and Friend of America.

Dedictory Letter. "To My Young Friends in America--Dear Children!--When you are large, and are studying the glorious history of your country, you will be told that on the other side of the Atlantic there is an old country by the name of France.

the trials which they have nobly passed through. To-day he would esteem himself happy could he make you laugh, or dry up your tears; and nothing would touch him more than sometimes to think that over yonder, on the other side of the ocean, there were young gentlemen and charming young ladies who forgot the hours in listening to the tales of their friends, the old Frenchman, EDOUARD LABOULAYE."

Story of the Noses. At Dewitt, in the neighborhood of Prague, there once lived a rich and whimsical old farmer, who had a beautiful daughter, the students of Prague, of whom there were at that time twenty-five thousand, often walked in the direction of Dewitt, and more than one of them offered to follow the plough, in hopes of becoming the son-in-law of the farmer. The first condition that the cunning peasant set on each new servant was this--"I engage you," he would say, "for one year, that is, till the cuckoo sings the return of spring; but if from now till then, you say once you are not satisfied, I will cut off the end of your nose. I give you the same right over me," he added, laughing, and he did as he said. Prague was full of students with the end of their noses glued on, which did not prevent an ugly ear, and, still less, bad jokes. To return from the farm disgraced and ridiculed was well calculated to cool the warmest passion.

A young man by the name of Coranda, somewhat ugly in manner, but cool, adroit, and cunning, which are not bad aids in making one's fortune, took it in his head to try the adventure. The farmer received him with his usual good nature, and, the bargain made, sent him to the field to work. At breakfast-time the other servants were called, but good care was taken to forget Coranda. At dinner it was the same. Coranda gave himself no trouble about it. He went to the house, and while the farmer's wife was feeding the chickens, unhooked an enormous ham from the kitchen rafter, took a huge loaf from the cupboard, and went back to the field to his nap.

"Are you satisfied?" cried the farmer, when he returned at night. "Perfectly satisfied," said Coranda, "I have done better than you have." At that instant the farmer's wife came rushing in, crying that her ham was gone. Coranda laughed, and the farmer turned pale. "Are you not satisfied?" asked Coranda. "A ham is only a ham," answered his master. "Such a trifle does not trouble me." But at that time he took good care not to leave the student fasting.

Sunday came. The farmer and his wife seated themselves in the wagon to go to church, saying to Coranda, "It is your business to go to the dinner. Cut up the piece of meat you see yonder, with onions, carrots, leeks, and parsley, and boil them all together in the great pot over the kitchen fire." "Very well," answered Coranda. There was a little pet dog at the farm-house by the name of Parsley. Coranda killed him, skinned him, cut him up with the meat and vegetables, and put the whole to boil over the kitchen fire. When the farmer's wife returned, she called her favorite; but, alas! she saw nothing but a bloody skin hanging by the window.

"What have you done?" said she to Coranda. "What you ordered me," answered he, "I have boiled the meat, onions, carrots, and leeks, and parsley in the bargain." "Wicked wretch!" cried the farmer, "had you the heart to kill the innocent creature that was the joy of the house?" "Are you not satisfied?" said Coranda, taking his knife from his pocket. "A dead dog is nothing but a dead dog." But he sulked. A few days after, the farmer and his wife went to market. Fearing their terrible servant, they said to him, "Stay at home, and do exactly what you see others do." "Very well," said Coranda. There was an old shed in the yard, the roof of which was falling to pieces. The carpenter came to repair it, and began, as usual, by tearing down the roof. Coranda took a ladder and mounted the roof of the house, which was quite new. Shingles, lath, nails, and tiles, he tore off everything, and scattered them all to the winds. When the farmer returned, the house was open to the sky.

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